

Melbourn Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers  
summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the Cambridgeshire Weekly News. They are supplemented by some articles published in the Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library together with have detailed cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at [bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection).

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check. There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1897 08 24

At a meeting of the Royston Board of Guardians the question of London children coming into the country for a holiday and bringing infectious diseases with them was brought under consideration, cases of the kind having occurred in the locality. One case of scarlet fever had broken out at a house on the Moor, Melbourn to which three children had been sent by a holiday fund from Stoke Newington. Another was a case of diphtheria which had occurred at Meldreth at a house where 12 children from Stoke Newington were staying. A couple of cases had broken out also at Reed, in a house where London children were staying

1897 12 23

Melbourn dirty house, p3

1898 09 06

Marriage failure – carrier, Melbourn

1899 01 03

Melbourn Christmas revelry

1899 06 27

At Melbourn three schoolboys were summoned for breaking three panes of glass in the church window. Quite recently no less than 14 panes had been broken. An 11-year old stated he saw the lads shoot at the church window with a catapult. Witness was asked: 'Did you have a shot'. 'Yes, sir'. 'And you missed?' 'No, sir. I broke one'.

1899 10 24

Three London musicians and a comedian were charged with stealing a bag of potatoes, value 4s., from a field in Melbourn. John King, roadman, said he saw one of them jump over a hedge, get the bag and place in on a trolley. PC Knight said he saw the prisoners with a piano organ on a trolley and found the potatoes lying on the seat, covered with a rug. He detained two and took them to Royston police station. Afterwards found the others had decamped with the pony in the direction of Baldock but being a cyclist he followed them. One prisoner said they on 5 arriving at Royston fair he saw Harris' roundabouts and went and spoke to the proprietor. When there the constable questioned him. They had bought the potatoes from a man in a public house at Long Melford for 1s.6d.

1900 02 07

South Essex Waterworks Company proposal to construct a large reservoir near Melbourn would drain the watershed from which Newmarket obtained its supply. In some nearby villages water was very scarce in summer & in one or two had to be carted about by water carts from a distance. But Mr Segrott said it would be an advantage to have the water a few feet lower in the town. Several could tell of having their cellars flooded. When the Hotel Victoria was built it took an engine weeks working day and night to keep the water down.

1901 07 01

Melbourn cricket, p2

1901 08 30

The opening of any new burial ground in the parish of Melbourn should be prohibited and burials discontinued forthwith and entirely in the parish churchyard of All Saints' Melbourn, for the protection of the public health, Melbourn Rural District Council was told in a letter from the Local Government Board. It rested with the Parish Council to take the necessary steps; a parish meeting had been held for the purpose of closing the burial ground, but there were several persons who did not know much about the matter.

1902 08 27

Melbourn rabbit theft, p3

1904 04 08

An inquiry was held into the promotion of the Meldreth and Melbourn District Gas and Water Company Bill; it aroused a deal of opposition and at times the exchanges were of a very lively character. The present Gasworks at Melbourn were not up-to-date and with growing demand a new company had been formed who would erect new gasworks in Meldreth; there had been no objection from residents. Water supplies were obtained from the river and wells and a good supply would enhance the value of property. There would be a pumping station near Melbourn Heath Farm and a 200,000-gallon reservoir. The County Council supported the scheme but the Parish and District Councils objected

1904 12 13

Whaddon rectory was completely destroyed by fire. Owing to the inflammable state of the old woodwork and the old-fashioned internal arrangement of the building the fire spread with great rapidity. Whaddon is a peculiarly isolated village and on their arrival Melbourn Fire Brigade saw there was no hope of saving the rectory. It was not sufficiently ancient to be of antiquarian interest nor sufficiently recent to be of modern design. The Rector and his family have suffered considerable inconvenience and much irreplaceable furniture is destroyed but they are none the worse for their terrible experience

1905 03 07

Passive resisters, Melbourn & Haverhill

1905 04 08

The warrant against Mr Palmer, the Meldreth Passive Resister, was quietly executed and to avoid publicity the police conveyed their prisoner direct to Cambridge by cab. The journey was not without incident however; the bolt came out of one of the shafts and the horse ran away. Some Melbourn sympathisers managed to communicate with Cambridge Resisters and a number were waiting outside the gaol to give Mr Palmer a word of welcome when he arrived. 05 04 08b

1905 04 14

Mr Palmer, the Melbourn Passive Resister who determined to suffer imprisonment rather than pay the education portion of the poor rate has emerged from Cambridge gaol after seven days. As a teetotaler and non-smoker prison discipline brought few privations but the food was painfully plain, all the bread was brown and there was a bran suet pudding. He was set to work mending mailbags. He had no complaint about his treatment by the warders but says the governor went out of his way to be offensive 05 04 14a-c

1905 04 18

Bertram Palmer, the Melbourn Passive Resister said the County Gaol seemed to be the busiest place in Cambridge. It was like a beehive. There were a number of cells and a busy bee in each one. The warder gave him a number of mail bags to patch and said he expected to see them done by the next day. He had to keep things clean in his cell. He was given a bucket, a scrubbing brush, a piece of stone and a piece of cloth. It was not at all amusing being in gaol but he had been the 150th Passive Resister to go there and he would go again if he thought it would aid the cause. 05 04 18-c

1905 11 04

Justices awarded compensation under the scheme for reducing the number of public houses. They included the Hoops pubs in Kneesworth, Melbourn and Steeple Morden, the Sir Harry Smith at Swavesey and the Ram's Head at Swaffham Bulbeck. In Oakington The Windmill, King's Head and Plough and Harrow were closed. But the closure of the 'Wait for the Bus' at Bottisham was contested; others Rams Head, Swaffham Bulbeck; Swaffham Prior: White Hart; Swavesey: Railroad, Bird in

Hand; Cottenham: Windmill; Dry Drayton: Rose and Crown 05 11 04b-d Melbourn lady weds  
'Maori' Browne – 09 01 01

1909 05 07

A Melbourn man was the first person to be charged for making a false declaration for the purposes of obtaining an old age pension. He had but a very hazy notion as to whether he was guilty or not. He had stated that his income was four shillings a week and that he had no other means of subsistence whereas he got a weekly payment from a Benefit Society and a gratuity from a relative abroad. He also drew rent from three cottages which took him well over the limit. 09 05 07

1909 07 02

A number of village public houses are no longer economic and should close, magistrates were told. They included the Bell at Meldreth, Melbourn's Old Elm Tree, The Royal Oak Fulbourn, The Lamb and Lord Nelson at Cottenham, British Queen Chesterton, Queen's Head Dry Drayton, Over's Hare and Hounds, Balsham Five Awls and Soham's Fox-in-Wood. But the licensee of the Green Man at Swavesey said he did not want to leave it. CWN 09 07 02

1909 12 03

Lacon's brewery should receive £143 in compensation for the closure of the Red Lion public house at Orwell, the tenant, George Everitt, £16 and the Lord of the Manor £5, councillors decided. They awarded £200 compensation for the Fox and Duck in South Street Cambridge and £325 for the White Horse in Coronation Street. Agreement was also reached on The Bell at Meldreth, The Old Elm Tree Melbourn and the British Queen and Prince of Wales in Chesterton. CWN 09 12 03

1910 07 01

There were 17 licensed houses in Melbourn, one to every 80 inhabitants, magistrates heard. The White Lion in Melbourn was near the Tailors' Arms and Anchor with another seven houses within a quarter of a mile. There was a barber's shop attached and this opened into the lobby leading to the bar. But the landlord said he allowed no beer to be sold there because children came to have their hair cut. It was in good structural repair and perfectly water tight. Eight beerhouses were doing a worse trade. John Bullen, a wheelwright, said he visited occasionally and it was a very good house. Its licence was renewed

1911 02 24

Burial Rev J. Hamilton, vicar of Melbourn – 11 02 24e

1911 07 14

The Gravel Diggers was right down in Cottenham fen but there was a considerable amount of labour at certain seasons. The tenant had held the licence for 30 years. It was renewed also Priory Tap, Melbourn White Horse

1912 02 16

Tenant of Green Man at Thriplow, a heavy drinker, jumped from bedroom window. Beehive beerhouse Litlington, Oak beerhouse Melbourn and Hill House beerhouse Steeple Morden closed.

1912 08 30

Floods Swavesey, Cottenham, Royston, Melbourn, Arrington, Histon, St Ives – 12 08 30h

1913 07 18

Flower shows, Chesterton, Sawston, Duxford, Swaffhams, Melbourn & Meldreth, West Wrating,

1913 07 25

Cambridgeshire licensing; includes Melbourn Tailor's Arms, Over Black Horse, Swavesey Lt Rose, Cambridge Place Three Pigeons 13 07 25 p8

1913 11 14

Public houses compensation awards: Melbourn Tailors Arms, Over Sow & Pigs & Black Horse, Dry Drayton Five Bells, Gamlingay Three Horse Shoes, Elsworth Three Horse Shoes, Bourn King William IV, Girton White Horse, Cottenham Red Lion, Willingham Black Lion, Shakespeare Newmarket Rd

1914 03 27

Death of ex-Sergeant Carter. — We regret to record the death of ex-Sergeant Samuel Carter which occurred at his residence, 61, Newmarket Road, at the age of 70 years. Mr. Carter was a native of Melbourn and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carter, of the village. Up to the age of 20 years, he followed the occupation of a farm labourer with his father and joined the Borough Police Force in 1863, ultimately retiring in 1895 as a Sergeant after 32 years' faithful service. On his retirement from the force, Mr. Carter was appointed custodian of the Botanic Gardens and remained in that situation up to the time of his death. He has also been on the staff of the New Theatre since its opening in 1896 and his face will be missed at the pit door. In all, he has worn uniform for 51 years, which is indeed a record. - 1914 03 27 CIPof

1914 06 26

Housing enquiry – Melbourn, Meldreth p7

1914 07 24

Melbourn & Meldreth show

1920 01 07

Rats Killed, Up to December 3rd last the number of rats killed in the county and paid for by Cambs County Council under the Rats Order, was 35,516. The districts concerned were: Little Abington (number of rats killed 504), Ashley (980), Balsham (2,718), Borough Green (358), Bottisham (999), Cheveley (631). Chippenham (838), Great Chishill (322), Croxton (225), Dullingham (1,205), Duxford (754), Elsworth (39), Fordham (8,072), Fowlmere (489), Harston (322), Hauxton (186). Heydon (1,593), Hildersham (236). Horseheath (324), Ickleton (1,095), Isleham (3,809), Kennett (1,422). Kirtling (396), Kneesworth (549), Linton (584), Lode (548), Melbourn (442), Newton (160), Pampisford (429), Sawston (332), Shepreth (313). Shudy Camps (1.38), Snailwell (786), Soham (2,896), Stetchworth (1,105) Swaffham Prior (1,032), Thriplow (464), Waterbeach (967), West Wickham (995), Whittlesford (324), Great Wilbraham (846), Wood Ditton (2,017).

1921 07 13

Public house closures – Melbourn Oak, Shepreth Half-way House; Over Black Horse, Bourn Greyhound' Cambridge Cherry Tree in Fitzroy St; Sovereign in Gold Street; Marquis of Granby in Bridge St; - 21 07 13b

1924 02 04c

Algernon Sydney Campkin was the last survivor of a family who had for several generations farmed land at Melbourn. In 1861 he was articled to a chemist and druggist and subsequently in 1868 succeeded to the old-established business of the late Mr William Brewster, an apothecary of some eminence in Rose Crescent, Cambridge, which he very successfully conducted up to the time of his death.

1924 04 07c

Cambridgeshire county council resolved to recommend to the Secretary of State the protection of chaffinch, hedgesparrow, wren, robin and other insect feeding birds and their eggs in the parishes of Cottenham, Willingham Melbourn and Burwell for the special reason that these birds consume large quantities of insects which do enormous damage to the fruit growing districts.

1925 11 07

There are at least two very happy married couples in Cambridgeshire today. In Melbourn there dwell Mr & Mrs John Preston Hall, who were married 68 years ago. They have lived in the same old-world thatched cottage in Drury Lane for 65 years. He is a working carpenter and at one time there were seven of his people all over 70. In Horningsea are another married couple whose name, curiously enough, is Melbourn, who celebrate their diamond wedding. Mr Melbourn worked on one farm from early boyhood until a few years ago. Hearty congratulations to both couples on their wonderful record

1927 12 27

Many of the main roads in the county were blocked with snowdrifts from six to ten feet deep over Christmas. Trains, motor buses and cars were held up and travellers stranded. The wheels of the mail vans were equipped with chains with the result that hold-ups were uncommon, though one van on the Histon – Milton road had to be dug out. A thatched cottage at Melbourn collapsed about seven o'clock in Sunday evening. The bedroom end of the house fell out, but, happily, Mrs Greig was in the bottom room and escaped injury. She would not move however until the policeman came on Monday morning. She is now living in a cottage just opposite

1928 12 17

A 15-year-old farm labourer from Melbourn was accused of having inserted a filed farthing in an automatic cigarette machine and obtained a 6d packed of cigarettes. Charles Cooper, postmaster and grocer of Shepreth said he had a machine outside his shop and had missed several packs of cigarettes this way. He kept watch, saw the accused leave the machine, checked the money and found the farthing. The lad said he had seen other boys do it too.

1930 04 30

A curious accident occurred in Melbourn when a Sentinel steam wagon crashed into the taproom of the White Lion public house. The wagon was about to pass a Co-op van when the driver saw another vehicle approaching. He swerved and crashed through the wall. Two men were in the taproom at the time but they escaped injury as did the driver and his mate. Fortunately the building was of plaster, or more serious injuries would undoubtedly have resulted to the men. Part of the house had to be propped up and traffic was diverted for some time. 30 04 30

1930 05 31

For generations a wooden, straw-thatched barn has stood opposite the church at Melbourn, its end used as the village bill-posting station. Two years ago it was purchased by Howard Bros, bakers, who decided to convert it into a shop. It would have been a very simple matter to demolish the barn and erect an up-to-date brick and slate shop but happily the brothers have a wide knowledge of the village's history and would never consent to the spoiling of this old-world corner. All are to be congratulated on their efforts and many motorists stop to congratulate them on preserving the amenities of the countryside. 30 05 31a & b & c

1932 05 17

Royston Town Hall reopened after being altered at a cost of £2,500, with a three-day programme of entertainments. Melbourn Players performed on the first night – but attracted only a small crowd. 200 attended a ball on the Friday – as this was the first dance on the floor it was not as good as it might be, but will improve in time – and a variety entertainment by amateur London artistes on Saturday seemed to the liking of everyone. 32 05 17

1932 07 01

The cross-roads in the centre of Melbourn were the scene of another accident when a Jowett car going to Royston collided with a Morris Isis drive by Sir Layton Blenkinsop which was crossing to Meldreth. Happily both cars were travelling dead slow, otherwise the collision might have had more serious results. The smaller Jowett car was damaged rather badly. 32 07 01c

1932 10 07

Sir – the time is not far distant when every village of importance will have to provide an official parking place for motor vehicles. The traffic through Melbourn may be abnormal but a parking place near the cross, church and green is even now a necessity. The many white road lines are evidence of the dangerousness of its turnings and corners. While many a halting motorist is rightly moved in by the police there are some who escape attention and it is ironic that motorists who offend least may be those who have to suffer – Melbournite. 32 10 07e

1933 04 19

Cambridgeshire police are losing a valued officer by the retirement of P.S. Sidney Smith. He joined the force in 1907 and was stationed at Eltisley, Swavesey, Willingham and Fen Ditton before being promoted to sergeant in 1926 and moving to Melbourn. He will be missed by motorists, for he has had more motor cases than anyone else in the county. 33 04 19

1935 05 11

Architect and builders accused of conspiring to cheat Melbourn RDC – 35 05 11c

1935 07 23

Cottages in Dolphin Lane, Melbourn, condemned for demolition – 35 07 23

1937 10 20

A Melbourn grocer and provision merchant told the bankruptcy court that he'd been employed as a grocer's assistant by his father who'd died 40 years ago. He then left Melbourn but returned in 1905 to assist his uncle who was carrying on the business. It had been successful until 1922 when it was wound up. He'd then started as a grocer at the Cross but after three years the competition became too severe through the opening of other premises offering a dividend. He'd also collected fares for an omnibus company which he'd not accounted for. 37 05 26 grocer was Oscar C. Campkin  
Percy Salmon gave a lantern lecture on Melbourn to Cambridge Photographic Club. One drawback was a lack of water supply and this was a serious matter to a photographer. The method of washing slides at the village pump was slow, but healthy, while dangling them in the mill pond merely provided a free picture show for the stickleback, who ruin the slides by their curiosity and rubbed the gelatine off. He deplored the 'slum clearance fever' which has swept Melbourn. It has made the village more healthy but less picturesque and no longer a hunting ground for photography 37 10 20c

1938 01 22

The most popular man in Meldreth is Mr. H. Ellis, who is fighting against an order that 21 of the village children, who have been attending Meldreth School, must in future go to Melbourn. The greater part of the village showed their support in no half-hearted fashion when they crowded —80 of them—into the Meldreth club room. The only man to speak in favour of the new order, reminded one very much of Daniel in the lions' den! The meeting carried a resolution demanding that "proper education be given to our children in our own village" 38 01 22a & b

1938 02 25

The headmistress of Meldreth School said that following the reduction in her staff she could not on her own teach children whose ages ranged from eight to 13 properly. Their capabilities were so different that they would not progress. She would be sad if the older ones had to go to Melbourn but it was for their good. But parents say that a child could not be compelled to go to another school if he could learn reading, writing and arithmetic at the school he is attending. Anything beyond that is optional. They continued to refuse to send their children to Melbourn 38 02 25b & c

1938 05 04

Meldreth school parents lose their fight to stop children being sent to Melbourn (see Memories) 38 05 04 & a, 38 05 06b

1938 08 08

Some 900 aircraft are taking part in an exercise testing the air defence of Great Britain. The attacking force will have 36 bomber squadrons (some from Bassingbourn and Wyton) while the defenders will consist of 23 fighter squadrons and 14 bomber squadrons, including planes from Duxford, Debden, Feltwell, Mildenhall and Stradishall. Anti-aircraft and searchlight batteries will be spread across the Eastern Counties. Bombers will fly without navigation lights unless other aircraft approach and fighters are forbidden from attacking below 1,000 ft 38 08 05a plane crashes at Melbourn – 38 08 08. Mayor made tour of town, all in darkness apart from one or two lighted windows – 38 08 08b

1939 09 20

A Meldreth wheelwright and blacksmith claimed the increased use of motor traction and the slump in the agricultural industry were the cause of his failure. He'd open an ironmonger's shop in Melbourn in 1934 and bought a van to drive round villages selling hardware goods. But he did not make a profit so he sold the van to pay creditors. Two butchers, one at Stretham, the other Haddenham were also insolvent 39 09 20c

1940 01 12

Thaw Stops Dustcart. Notices throughout the village (Melbourn) announced that if the weather was favourable and the ground hard on Monday, the dustcart would make its half-yearly collection of household refuse on that day. Unfortunately for householders, however, a thaw set in on Sunday, followed by heavy rain, which made the road to the old chalk pits, where the rubbish was to be deposited, impassable, and the visit had to be postponed. It will be a great disappointment to the many villagers who had collected and deposited hundreds of empty tins, etc beside their cottage doors ready for removal.

1940 04 05

Business Changes. Two well-known businesses, side by side in the main street (at Melbourn), changed hands last weekend. Mrs. A. R. Loomes, who has conducted a drapery business for 25 years, retired from it, but will continue to reside in the village. Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Cranfield also retired from the Post Office, newspaper and general stores, and they, too, will continue to live in Melbourn. Both businesses have been sold and are now under new management.

1940 04 19

A Sister's Birthday. — A Melbourn correspondent writes: It is of course, not unusual for sisters to meet and celebrate a birthday, but an event in the village seems, to call for special mention. One of the inhabitants had her 79th birthday one day last week and she invited her two sisters to tea; one of them was 84 years of age and the other 77 years. The combined ages thus amounted to 240 years

1940 08 09

More Farmers' Boys. - A party of 32 lads from the Central School Melbourne Place, Cambridge, arrived in the village (Melbourn) last Saturday, and on Monday commenced farm and orchard work where required. The lads are accompanied by the Headmaster, Mr. J. D. Livingstone, and take the place of the 30 lads from the Coleridge School, who returned home on Saturday after a fortnight's work in the orchards. After a fortnight in the village, the Central lads will leave, and their place will be taken by another party. The boys sleep in the infants' room of the Council School, and have their meals in the Church Room.

1940 08 23

Harvest Bugs. According to old (Melbourn) inhabitants harvest bugs are more numerous this year than ever before in living memory.

1940 12 06

A Tragedy. The following note by the Vicar appears in the current issue of the Melbourn Parish Magazine: On Saturday evening, a poor, homeless wayfarer stepped into the road, and was knocked down by a passing car. He died as a result of his injuries. He was buried in our cemetery. The priest,



the undertaker and two of his helpers were all that were present. His relations, if he had any, will never hear of his death. How thankful most of us should be for home, friends and love."

1940 12 13

A Phenomenal November. According to the village octogenarians, last month was the wettest November in living memory (in Melbourn), and possibly the wettest on record. The average November rainfall in Melbourn is 2.20 ins., but last month rain was registered on 23 days, the wettest being the 4th (1.08 ins.), and the 14th (1.03 ins.) and the total for the month 6.20 ins. An authority on meteorology says that the heaviest rainfall, ever recorded for a single month in this country was 7.21 ins., and the date, June, 1903.

1940 12 13

Outbreak of fire. The lane adjoining the village green (at Melbourn) was the scene of an alarming outbreak of fire at 1 p.m. last Saturday. In this lane the men engaged in putting down water pipes through the village had placed a caravan, wooden shed and a tarpaulin tent for the storage of material. The works foreman and his son furnished the wooden hut as a temporary home, and while they were absent the place caught fire, the fire spreading to the tarpaulin tent, both erections being burnt to the ground, the former occupants losing clothes, camp beds, money, portable wireless set, cooking stoves, lamps and much other property. Mr. H. Stanford and Mr. W. J. Wiseman, members of the local fire brigade, were quickly on the scene, and managed to get the fire under control, but not before the caravan, in which lives the clerk of the works, was seriously damaged by the flames, also a large proportion of the garden fencing. The origin of the fire is unknown.

1941 03 07

Death of Husband and Wife—Villagers at Melbourn were shocked to hear last week of the death, within a few hours, of both Mr. Edward Hawkins, aged 61 years, and his wife, Mrs. Annie Hawkins, aged 60. They lived in a cottage on the Moor and had been in poor health for a long time. The double funeral took place in Melbourn cemetery on Tuesday.

1941 06 06

Snake. A particularly fine specimen of grass snake, 38 inches in length and of phenomenal girth, was caught and killed last week in Bury Lane, Melbourn, by Mr. Frank Harper. According to the old inhabitants who examined the reptile, it was "the largest ever caught in the village."

1941 06 27

Schoolboys' Capture.—Last Friday, when Ronnie Whiting, Arthur Pateman and John Bedford, three Melbourn schoolboys, were playing beside a stream running between the village and Shepreth, they espied in the water, and were successful in capturing, a particularly fine specimen of fresh water lobster, known as a crayfish or crawfish, characterised, like its allies, by the presence of ten walking legs. It was greenish brown, about six inches in length, and weighed between four and five ounces. The creature was placed in a large glass jar, and exhibited to many interested persons. It has since been returned to the stream at the spot where it was found, and apparently none the worse for its experience in the hands of the lads who captured it.

1941 07 11

Suspension of Feast. For the first time, it is believed, since its establishment many centuries ago, there were no outward and visible signs of the annual village feast (at Melbourn) during the first week in July, and this caused great disappointment in many quarters, as its suspension had not been announced. The decision not to hold the feast was not arrived at until the night before the stalls, etc. were due to appear. Many visitors came to the village from the surrounding district last Friday and Saturday, as during recent years the event has been one of the largest and most popular in South Cambridgeshire. The absence of the feast was not due to diminishing interest, but rather due to transport difficulties, petrol rationing and other war-time conditions. Feast Sunday, however, was well

observed, many visitors coming into the village to see old friends-talk over old times, and to find home-made cakes and wines, for which Melbourn housewives are noted, up to pre-war standard.

1941 07 18

Beer Shortage. Most of the ten licensed houses of the village (Melbourn) were short of bottled and draught beers during, the weekend, and a few of the inns were closed for a few days. The shortage was not due to any phenomenal thirst on the part of the villagers and visitors, but to the brewers cutting down supplies on the delivery days of last week.

1941 08 07

Melbourn water safe for drinking – 41 08 07

1941 08 22

Snacks for Farm Workers, — It is hoped to start a temporary canteen at Stapleford for the provision of snacks for harvest workers, to be opened on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This was to have started this week, but was held up, waiting for the meat. It is hoped this difficulty will soon be solved and the food provided. The farmers' wives in the village are making a special effort to help, the cooking being done at Bury Farm and Magog Farm. Mrs. Layng, of Three Ways, is acting as secretary. At Melbourn, a harvest canteen opened at the council school last week 41 08 22

1941 08 29

Harvest Horn. Among the "Wanted" advertisements in last week's paper (writes Watchman) was one asking for "domestic bygoness," and making special mention of old fire hooks, a farm smock, a harvest horn, articles required for the Old English Museum in Shepreth. A correspondent, himself a collector of antiquities, says it is good to know that such bygoness are being sought after and saved from destruction. Smocks and fire hooks are bulky articles not likely to be destroyed, but the harvest horn, a comparatively small instrument, may easily be overlooked, mislaid or cast aside as something of no importance, and perhaps not understood by the average villager today. Years ago in every agricultural village at harvest time, it was customary for a boy to walk slowly through a village, at or shortly before sunrise, and blow a horn as a signal for the labourer to go into the harvest fields. These horns were of simple design and of various sizes, and were sold mainly at Stourbridge Fair. Those in common use in Cambridgeshire were of stout block-tin, 16 inches in length, straight in shape, and tapering from a quarter of an inch (excluding trumpet-like mouthpiece) to an opening of about 2½ inches in diameter. The last of the horn-blowers in South Cambridgeshire was William King, of Melbourn, who died in December, 1935, aged 84 years. When a lad of about seven years of age (say about 1858) he was chosen to perambulate at sunrise and blow the horn, a harvest-time job he did for several years, his horn notes being heard at times both at Shepreth and Meldreth. 41 08 29

1941 12 12

Death of Mr. Charles - By the death at the age of 71 years of Mr. Charles Winter - better known locally as Mr Fred Winter—the village (Melbourn) loses one of its most highly respectable inhabitants and most familiar figures, as for 22 years he has been in the employ of the County Council as a local roadman. He died in Addenbrooke's Hospital, where he had been a patient for four weeks. In by-gone days, when the Salvation Army had a place of worship in the village Mr. Winter was one of its most ardent supporters being one of the bandsmen and the local treasurer 41 12 12

1943 01 09

Cambridgeshire Regt. The Question of the origin of the Cambridgeshires (writes Watchman) is again being discussed in certain quarters and there seems to be a belief, according to a correspondent, that the regiment was first formed in 1914 at the commencement of the First Great War. It was then thought to be new, but it may be recalled that Mr. Hubert O. S. Ellis, of Melbourn, wrote to the Press during September, 1914, giving a brief history of the regiment. Mr. Ellis (whose father was born in the barracks in the island of St. Helena in the year 1818) stated that the 18th Regiment of Foot was known as the "Cambridgeshire;" it was at Waterloo, besides being in Egypt and the Peninsula Wars; facings were yellow and lace silver. The grandfather of Mr. Ellis, Capt. John, Hitch Ellis, who

received his commission as Ensign in the Cambridgeshire Regiment (30th Foot) in 1803, and eventually Joined the 66th Foot (the "Berkshire"),

1942 05 01

Death of Major-General, — The death occurred suddenly at Melbourn on Tuesday of Maj.-Gen. Sir Layton John Blenkinsop, K.C.B., B.S.O. who had a distinguished career with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and was Director-General of the Army Veterinary Service. He was 79 years old. He was a great supporter of the British Legion, from the branch county and area points of view. He was the first President of the Melbourn branch, and later became President of the Bassingbourn and District branch. 42 05 01

1942 05 29

Stationmaster. Railway passengers and others in the Royston area (says Watchman) will learn with interest of a staff change involving a popular railway official. He is Mr. George Green, who has been well-known in the town as Chief Clerk at the local station, and who has now been appointed Stationmaster at Meldreth and Melbourn. In the last war he lost a leg at Builecourt; but this handicap did not damp his enthusiasm upon the formation of the Home Guard in the town, and he became one of the original local members. And he is now Company Sergeant Major- testimony not only to his keenness, but to the recognition in higher quarters of his useful military experience. 42 05 29

1942 07 17

Youngest Inspector. At the age of 36 Leonard Arthur Unwin becomes the youngest inspector in the Cambridgeshire County Constabulary. The promotion took place as from the first of this month. Inspector Unwin joined the force in 1927, and was given the rank of sergeant in 1938. He has been stationed at Melbourn, Bourn, Girton and Madingley and is at present out at Newmarket. He is one of the most earnest supporters of sporting activities in the Force, and is a member of the cricket eleven. He is secretary of the recreation club.

1942 12 04

Death of Mrs. Charles Salmon. —We have to record the death, after a very short illness, of Mrs. Alice Salmon, widow of ex-Supt. Charles Salmon, a member of the Cambs. County Constabulary for 35 years. Mrs. Salmon, who was 82 years of age, died on Monday at her home, York House, Melbourn. She was widely known throughout South Cambs, as during her husband's occupancy of police stations at Melbourn (as sergeant), Caxton as inspector) and Arrington (as superintendent), she acted as police matron. She was also well-known in Melbourn and Trumpington where Mr. Salmon was stationed as a constable before his promotions. When ex-Supt. Salmon retired in September, 1919, he and his wife came to live in Melbourn and he died there in February of this year.

1942 12 25

Familiar vane disappears. For generations, one of the most looked at weathervanes in South Cambridgeshire has been that on the tower of Melbourn parish church. Some months ago, however it was seen to be in an unusual position, and on Sunday last it crashed and disappeared from view. The direction letters, N.E.S.W. and accompanying revolving arrow will be missed not only by villagers, but by the thousands of motorists and others who pass through the village, and its early return to the summit of the tower is hoped for. 42 12 25

1943 03 26

From P.C to P.S. — Fourteen years ago, Mr. Arthur Abrey, son of Mr. Rial Abrey, and the late Mrs. Abrey, left his home in Melbourn to join the Northamptonshire Police Force, and he has been stationed at Wellingborough, Finedon and Rothwell, and recently at Corby, where he was attached to the C.I.D. He was one of the best known young men in Melbourn, and his many old friends will be pleased to learn that he has now at the age of 34 years, been promoted to police sergeant, and is taking up duties at Earls Barton. 43 03 26

1943 06 25

Presentation. Home on leave from the forces last week, Mr. Sidney Waldock was on Sunday presented with a pocket Bible, suitably inscribed, in appreciation of his many years' service as superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School (Melbourn). The presentation was made by Miss Kathleen Abrahams, senior scholar, on behalf of the teachers and scholars of the school.

1943 08 06

Old Register, - The following note by the Vicar appears in this month's Parish Magazine (at Melbourn): The first names in the burial register of 1558 are Campion, Atkinson, Luddington and Poole. All these names are no longer found in the parish. Soon after occurs the names that are still with us — Stockbridge, Webb, Smith, Collis and Ingre. A correspondent adds: "Melbourn's 385-years-old register is one of the oldest in the district, the starting date of some of the others being Orwell 1560, Fowlmere 1581, Shepreth 1569 and Meldreth 1681. It may also be recalled that after various unsuccessful attempts, commencing in 1538, to secure a proper register of births, marriages and deaths in a village, it was not until July 1, 1837 that the present system of registration was established in England and Wales, Scotland followed in 1854 and Ireland in 1863." 43 08 06

1944 01 07

A Notable Share-Out - The-annual share-out in connection with the Melbourn and District Sick and Dividing Club took place in the Council School a few days before Christmas. Six hundred and fifty-six members shared out the sum of £788 10s., 530 non-benefit members each receiving 25s. and each benefit members 20s. The sum of £788 10s. 2d. was available for distribution after expenses, including £29 11s. 8d. sick pay, had been met. 44 01 07

1944 01 21

Poultry Yard Raid. Remarking that punishment must be meted out to people who go about the country with lorries raiding poultry yards, the chairman of the Cambridgeshire Quarter Sessions (Mr. Grafton Pryor) on Friday passed sentence of 18 months' imprisonment on two London men found guilty of stealing 103 fowls at Melbourn on the night of November 25. The chairman commended the promptness with which the owner of the fowls telephoned the police on hearing a disturbance among the birds, and the police of Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire for the speed with which they effected the arrest of the two men concerned. 44 01 21

1944 01 28

Village Timekeeper. — At the time of going to press, we are informed that the list of subscribers for the upkeep of the church tower at Melbourn has been placed in the window of the post office for all to see. Some villagers complained about the clock being deliberately stopped in order to call attention to the need of money, but the plan appears to have been effective, as the subscription list is larger than some expected it to be. There is, however, ample space for many more names, and more money is required. It is to be hoped however that a more satisfactory and agreeable method of obtaining the annual amount called for will be formulated and adopted. 44 01 28

1944 07 14

Village Feast. — According to an ancient custom, Melbourn's annual three-day feast commences on the first Thursday in July, but so little had previously been heard of the event this year that little or no feast was expected, mainly because of war-time restrictions of one kind or another. We have to record, however, the coming of one of the largest, liveliest and best patronised feasts for many years - within living memory, some old villagers say. 44 07 14

1944 10 06

Diamond Wedding.—On Wednesday of this week, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Holland, of New Road, Melbourn, celebrated their diamond wedding day. They were married at Melbourn Parish Church on October 4, 1884, and have spent the whole of their married life in the village. Nine of their 13 children are living, one son (Percy) being a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. They have 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Owing to wartime conditions and the family being

scattered, there were no family celebrations, but members near at hand and numerous friends visited the couple and offered their congratulations, and a cable was received from a friend in Cairo. Both are in fairly good health. Mr. Holland, now 80 years of age —his wife is 78—did not give up work in the fields and orchard until two years ago. 44 10 06

1944 10 13

Books Villagers Borrow. —The register of books issued by the Cambridgeshire Education Committee to the many village libraries in the county is a most interesting document, as it gives some indication of tastes of the villagers today. At the last census the village of Melbourn housed 392 families, and had a population of 1,294, and the number of borrowers on the register was 350: The books issued during the 12 months ending September 30 last numbered 12,849 (an increase of 136 over the previous year) and they are classed under the following headings: Philology 0, Religion 3, Philosophy 28, v Bibliography 38, Natural Science 57, Fine Arts 87, Sociology 132, Literature 135, Useful Arts 172, Biography 481, History and Travel 1,164, Fiction 10,552. 44 10 13

1944 12 08

Old inhabitant. By the death on November 29 of Mr. William K. Stockbridge, the village has lost another of its oldest and best known inhabitants and a member of one of the oldest families in Melbourn. He was a son of the late Mr. Joseph Stockbridge, the once well-known farmer and dealer in horses. He passed away after a short illness at his home, Ivy Villa, High Street. The funeral took place last Saturday 44 12 08

1945 11 26

Chief Constable injured and Commandant of 'Specials' killed in collision with armoured car at Melbourn – 45 11 16; W.H. Edwards dies – 45 11 26; funeral – 45 11 30a, inquest – 45 12 17, 45 12 18

1949 02 18

South Cambs. R.D.C. have given an assurance it is their policy to take water into every council house in their district. Lists of tenants who suffered extreme hardship by reason of having to obtain water from standpipes were submitted from Bassingbourn, Guilden Morden and Melbourn. In 1938 they had sent out a circular letter to every house asking if they would pay 2d a week for water, but nearly every village voted against it

1950 01 19

In these days, when it not always easy to let the ballroom for a dance, it is unusual to hear of the Cambridge Guildhall being booked two consecutive nights in order to accommodate all those wishing to attend a function. This happened when the Cambridge Co-operative Society held their annual staff party for 900 employees and friends. Special trains brought them from Duxford, Melbourn, Burwell, Willingham and Bishop's Stortford.

1950 12 05

Cambridge, along with practically every other town and village, presented a traditional Christmas-card picture yesterday with freshly fallen snow decorating the trees and hedges. The roads, however, were not quite so picturesque and once the snow had hardened on them they became very treacherous. Melbourn hill was completely blocked by three lorries across the road. Madingley Hill was another treacherous point, with cars unable to climb it and there were long queues also in the Girton road because they could not get a sufficient hold on a rising road.

1952 01 04

An R.A.F. Meteor jet fighter crashed near Melbourn and wreckage was spread over a wide area. The pilot died on arrival at Royston Hospital after bailing out. A farm worker, Mr Stanley Wing, who was working on a stack near the crash received a fright when an engine whistled past him to bury itself in the ground nearby. Villagers in Melbourn reported that bits of the wreckage landed in the streets and on houses. There was, however, no fire.

1952 10 02

Cambridgeshire Education Committee has approved a proposal to provide Grammar School education at two village colleges – Sawston and Impington. If agreed the work of building grammar school wings may begin next April. At the end of the five-year scheme there will be 300 grammar school places. They had been looking forward to the establishment of a country grammar school with a useful house that could have been adapted. Melbourn Bury, home of a former Chairman of the Education Committee, had not received Ministry approval

1953 10 29

An old-established ironmongery and harness business at Melbourn, J.E. Hagger and Son, has finished trading because of the increase in the use of motors and tractors and the consequent decline in the demand for harness work. It had been founded at the end of the 19th century. Before the war two harness makers and two apprentices were employed but now there was scarcely sufficient work for one man. At the small Bassingbourn branch, opened in 1911, one man worked on making and repairing harness.

1954 07 17

There were strong protests at plans for new offices at Shire Hall Cambridge. The new building would contain Assize and Quarter Sessions courts, offices and accommodation for the County Library. The courts at Linton, Caxton, Melbourn and Bottisham were 'shockers', housed in old police stations and the magistrates would be only too happy to do their work in an up-to-date building. Architects had strongly advised against cheese-pairing costs of the assembly hall: Cambridge's lovely college buildings had been the best and had stood the test of time and the costs of labour and materials were rising. But a new plan for one-tier local government might mean the doom of County Councils and the scheme should be deferred.

1954 06 25

RAF authorities are investigating reports that two parachutes were seen to appear from a Canberra jet bomber shortly before it crashed in a sugar beet field near Six Mile Bottom. It had taken off from Bassingbourn a few minutes before. The three crew, who include a Royston man, have been reported as missing believed killed but only one body has yet been found. Mystery surrounds the crash but the finding of the aircraft's cockpit canopy in the Melbourn area indicates it might have become detached and been the cause of the accident. The plane hurtled into the ground in a field half-a-mile from the railway and made a hole about 40 feet deep, the sides of which collapsed almost burying the aircraft.

1954 12 14

It was a really grand and successful annual show and sale organised by the Cambridge Fat Stock Show Society, but typically it had to rain. Nevertheless farmers and visitors kept up a steady attendance. By far the most outstanding entries were in the carcass competition – the first held outside Smithfield. The champion prize was won by Stanley Hoy of Holland Hall, Melbourn, with an Aberdeen-Angus polled steer while Messrs L. Shepperson of March won the class for the best heifer, horned or de-horned with no more than two broad teeth.

1957 01 07

Melbourn parish church has been broken into and silver plate stolen from the vestry. The loss includes three chalices, two platters, a Georgian salver, a service plate, 12-inch high flagon and a wafer box. Rev H. Jukes said "The vicar of a parish is bound to have enemies but I can't think of anyone who could have done it apart from gain". He had to use his own personal 'miniature' Holy Communion set so he could hold a service for nine people, using a chalice only meant for three. 57 01 07

1957 06 08

The vestry door of Melbourn church was forced, the safe opened and the communion silver stolen. Later it was found in a cardboard box in a ditch. PC Everett questioned two men and was helping to push their car, which had broken down, when they threw an overcoat over his head and made their

escape. Inside he found a wrecking bar that had been used to force the lock and a piece of paper with an address on it. 57 06 08 & a

1958 12 01

Arrington court house and police station has been the setting for countless human dramas since it opened in the 1840s and is a memorial to the patient deliberations of public-spirited magistrates of several generations. Now it is to close and a chapter in the history of local justice ends. The new police station is a smart building just around the corner and the Melbourn courthouse has been improved and is more accessible. 58 12 01b

1959 03 28

A new Village College may be provided at Shelford to take children from Stapleford, Harston and Hauxton, providing a compact area with economic transport arrangements. It would avoid the expansion of Sawston and Melbourn village colleges when the school leaving age is raised to 16. But it is not included in the Development Plan and it is not thought likely there would be any considerable increase in population. 59 03 28

1959 04 25

The Cambridgeshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The first detachment (women) was formed in Cambridge in 1910 and followed by Bourn, Swavesey, Shelford & Willingham. The first men's detachment was formed at Melbourn in 1913. With the coming of the First World War valuable work was done at hospitals in Cintra Terrace and Wordsworth Grove which laid the foundation for their well-established reputation for invaluable service. 59 04 25c

1959 04 30

Melbourn bypass investigation – 59 04 30

1959 08 26

Melbourn's most familiar figure, Mr Percy Salmon, has died aged 87. He was correspondent for the 'Cambridge Independent Press and Chronicle' for many years. Nothing could ruffle his even temperament although his articles were often controversial. In his youth Mr Salmon travelled the world as a press photographer and his lantern lectures were a popular entertainment when he first came to the village in the late 1920's. He was also an expert archaeologist. 59 08 26b, funeral 59 08 28

1959 12 12

Cambridgeshire would get the place in the history of further education that it deserves said the Minister of Education when he opened the new Melbourn Village College. It is a community centre, housing a secondary school for 320 pupils in daytime and providing cultural, vocational and social opportunities in the evenings and weekends with 700 attending evening classes. It is the eighth village college to be built; all have a great reputation among the supporters of adult education. 59 12 12 & a & b

1860 01 07

South Cambs RDC are going into the 'houses for sale' business. They initially intended to use small sites away from Council house developments but now hope to build on land fronting the highway in existing estates at Babraham Road, Sawston and Symonds Lane, Linton as well as new sites at Duxford and Melbourn. They plan semi-detached houses with a garage to sell for £2,450. Mortgage repayments would be about three pounds a week. Applicants on the council's waiting list will be informed. 60 01 07a

1961 01 28

A five-feet long crow-bar weighing nearly 60lbs crashed into the roof of a house in New Road, Melbourn. It is believed to have come from some demolition works about 50 yards away during the process of blowing out tree roots. The occupier, Mrs Robinson only spotted it when she went

shopping. "I thought my neighbours had put up a television mast but had another look and thought it could be a crow-bar ... I thought it had been dropped from a plane at first", she said. Despite its size it did very little damage. 61 01 28

1961 06 16

Melbourn illustrated full-page feature – 61 06 16 & a CIP

1963 03 01

Hale Close Melbourn new homes – advert 63 03 01

1963 09 10

Melbourn Village College pupils have returned from a five-week tour of Austrian refugee camps where they gave performances of songs and sketches. 63 09 10

1963 11 07

After declaring the new Histon railway bridge open Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother cut a tape with a pair of gold-handled scissors then decided to walk to the crest of the bridge which was lined by schoolchildren. She then moved on to Melbourn old peoples home where she met Amelia Dye, the oldest resident and was presented with quince jelly. But it was a frustrating day for news agency photographer Peter Dunn: the Queen Mother then admired his baby, cradled in his wife's arms – but there were no cameramen to get a picture – 63 11 07b 63 11 07a, 63 11 08

1964 08 01

Borehole at Melbourn could have serious effect on Cam, turning it into open sewer – fear – 64 08 01b

1964 09 18

Melbourn village photo feature – 64 09 18f

1969 09 24

Cambridge Water & Lee Valley Water Company sink boreholes at Melbourn to ensure water supply, fear might dry up source of Cam at Ashwell – 64 09 24c

1965 01 22

Melbourn village green belongs only to history – feature – 65 01 22c

1965 03 13

Melbourn old water pump discovered – 65 03 13a

1965 05 27

Metals Research Ltd to close sites at King Street and Milton and open at Melbourn. The firm, which has a world lead in the production of metal single crystals was formed in 1957 and now employs 120 workers – 65 05 27

1972 02

Cambridge University members of the National union of Public Employees are planning a large-scale membership drive in the university. Their Secretary said today that a claim by the union for a £20 basic weekly wage for manual & ancillary staff in universities would not apply to Cambridge workers. (Meanwhile Melbourn Discount Warehouse offered a Hotpoint twin-tub washing machine for £108 - £12 less than recommended price - but more than five times their weekly wage)

1972 07 21

Improvements to the A10 trunk road, including by-passes for Melbourn and Buntingford, and new bridges at Littleport and Foxton have been announced by Whitehall. The by-passes should be started within the next 10 years and will cost in the region of £1 1/2 million. The Deputy County Surveyor for Cambridgeshire said. At Foxton there are continuing delays at the crossing gates and there are regular accidents. It has been a black spot for longer than I care to remember, and the only way to stop



it is to do away with the crossing, and the only way to do that is to run a road bridge over it". The Chairman of the parish council said. "I am honestly very pleased at the news; it is a major step forward. The next thing will be to get the actual work done"

1974 02 26

Mr John Impey told Melbourn parish council: "There are an awful lot of rats at Melbourn. One old gentleman watches rats run through his home and others watch them play in their gardens".

1975 04 02

Melbourn, South Cambridgeshire's worst kept village, is determined to remove that insulting title from its records. But residents have a tough job on their hands because they claim the biggest rubbish culprits are people driving through the village. Last year the judges in the Best Kept Village competition relegated them to the bottom spot. The parish council feel the solution to their litter problem will only come when the proposed by-pass is built in a few years' time. "When we get the by-pass we shall be a village again", said Mr Aldridge. One of the worst spots is the village green near the traffic lights. Nearly every evening it was crowded with young people who tended to throw Coca-Cola tins and other litter on the green.

1975 06 06

Dining at the Pink Geranium, Melbourn is warm, comfortable and cosy. In the partly-panelled dining room we decided on a bottle of Piersporter 1973 (£2.50), unwisely as it turned out because it was not sufficiently chilled to be at its best. It did not spoil the smooth, lightly-flavoured pate (50p) or the full smoky flavour of the trout (75p) and was in prime condition for the sole meuniere (£1.95) and the duckling with curacao sauce which followed. With brandy and Cointreau to round off the evening our bill amounted to £11.25. It is true to say it is thought locally to be expensive but it is possible to get a first-class meal, including a half bottle of wine, for something like £6 - very reasonable for such relaxing and homely surroundings.

1975 11 13

The Duke of Edinburgh opened the new Patscentre at Melbourn which has built by PA Management Consultants Ltd. Amongst the things he saw were solar panels which were being used to heat water, and a bicycle powered by a special high-energy electric motor – both developments by a company of which the racing driver, Graham Hill, is a director.

1976 01 05

About 700 homes in mid-Anglia were without electricity today – more than 48 hours after the gales. The areas hit by major faults included Saffron Walden, Ickleton, Burwell, Littleport, Haddenham, Gamlingay and Melbourn. Up until yesterday afternoon between 1,500 and 2,000 homes had been without power. The Fire Brigade dealt with 150 emergency calls and had all their appliances working to make wind-damaged property safe. Thirty caravans were blown over at Caravan International's Newmarket site.

1976 05 26

Sixteen-year-old Jayne's new hair-do in aid of charity landed her in trouble at school. And it was not the style that caused a fuss, it was the colour. For her dark brown hair had been dyed ... bright green. She is a pupil at Melbourn Village College and had her hairstyle altered at a charity fashion show at the YMCA. "As soon as I walked into college I was told off and told not to go back until I had had the dye taken out", she said. At Reed's Hairdressing Salon they said: "I find it difficult to believe that in 1976 a girl could be taken home from school for this reason". Other girls had had their hair coloured peacock blue, violet burgundy, sky blue and brilliant blue at the nape of the neck.

1976 12 08

More than 1,000 jobs in the Cambridge area have been saved with the supply of £3 million of public money to the Cambridge Instrument Company, following a £1.85 million trading loss. The company has suffered serious financial troubles since it was set up after Metals Research Ltd of Melbourn took

over Cambridge Scientific Instruments Ltd 15 months ago. The company is one of the leading British manufacturers of scientific instruments with opposition coming from Japan, the USA and West Germany. It is to retain this technology in Britain that the Government has put up the new money

1977 06 03

Ashwell Street is no walk for the timorous. It needs nerves of steel to pass dogs barking and straining at the leash as the lane wends its seven miles between Ashwell and Melbourn. It is always hitting the headlines with stories of its squatters' rights problems, damage to neighbouring property at Litlington and litter, particularly at the Ashwell End. It is easy to understand why this is one of the more "unknown" green lane rambles. Maybe its not risking life and limb, but it comes darned close to it – David Waterson

1978 03 10

House-hunters looking to live in the country should be prepared to put up with country life – like flies and farmyard smells, said Coun Ken Turner of Hardwick. "Some people come into villages – they might be called the bed-and-breakfast residents – and the first thing they want to do is do away with the country way of life". Coun John Impey from Melbourn said a chicken farmer had been threatened with enforcement action by the environment department after a complaint about flies. The flies were not from his farm and it seemed unfair that pressure could be put on a long-established business because someone had decided to build homes nearby

1979 03 29

Cambridge comes out poorly in the new 'Good Food Guide'; two entries are dropped leaving the city with just one restaurant, the 'unusually suave' Peking Chinese Restaurant in Burleigh Street, and one pub, the Fort St George. Out go the Strudel's Restaurant in Fitzroy Street and the Golden Palace Chinese restaurant in Ely together with the Eagle in Bene't Street and the Plough at Coton. Old favourites which retain their rating include the Old Fire Engine House at Ely, the Old Bridge Hotel Huntingdon and the Hotel de la Poste, Swavesey. The Pink Geranium at Melbourn gets the humbler 'Pass' rating.

1979 11 13

Pop star Elkie Brooks paid a surprise visit to workers at Neve Electronic's Melbourn factory where she toured the assembly plant to view the firm's new sound control system. The star of the show was a 54-channel console built using micro-processor technology which is used to record and re-mix sound into a 'commercially-presentable' commodity with less inconvenience to the artist. Elkie has already bought a different Neve model for use in her own private studio in the basement of her home. She said: "It has been a life-long ambition to have my own studio. It will make things a lot easier especially when I have my baby".

1980 04 21

An entirely new kind of telephone has been developed by Patcentre International of Melbourn. It uses a high-frequency radio link which would 'beam up' to a microwave receiver installed on an ordinary telephone poles or high buildings. A user wanting to make a call would simply stand under one, dial and speak. The cost of his call would automatically be added to his bill. The company think it has a real future but might take time to get accepted and production is years into the future. 80 04 21

1984 03 31

Royston has been described as 'down market' by villagers and companies in Melbourn who say it does not have the same glamour that Cambridge has, particularly for the growing number of computer companies wanting to attract an American market. They want their postal address changed to Cambridgeshire. But the town's mayor, Mrs Judy Cresswell is not insulted by the down-market tag and admits that when she is abroad she says she comes from Cambridge because it is known all over the world. 84 03 31 p3

1986 12 01

Clergy at Melbourn are planning an extension to the parish church on a concrete 'raft' so graves will not be disturbed. A meeting room, vestry, kitchen and lavatories will be built over the old graveyard. There are no headstones and the last burial was more than 100 years ago. It is becoming quite a common thing: similar scheme at Cherry Hinton, Milton and Ely have all been successful. If graves are disturbed the church would give special permission for reburial 86 12 01b

1987 11 30

Melbourn-based PA Technology is behind the launch of a pioneering public phone service. ZonePhones are second-generation cordless telephones designed for use in the home, office or street. Owners of the new equipment, which will retail for about £250, can use base stations at distances of more than 200 yards. Its operation is entirely digital with speech transmitted over British Telecom's system like an ordinary call. In time mobile telephones and mobile data terminals will become as common as the ordinary telephone is today, they predict 87 11 30

1987 07 16

Melbourn bypass opened – 88 07 16

1990 04 24

Neve Electronics of Melbourn makes recording consoles – 90 04 24b